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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

PEVEK AREA, USSR

S-8274

Declassification review by
NIMA/DoD



HTA/SM-5/57

15 November 1957

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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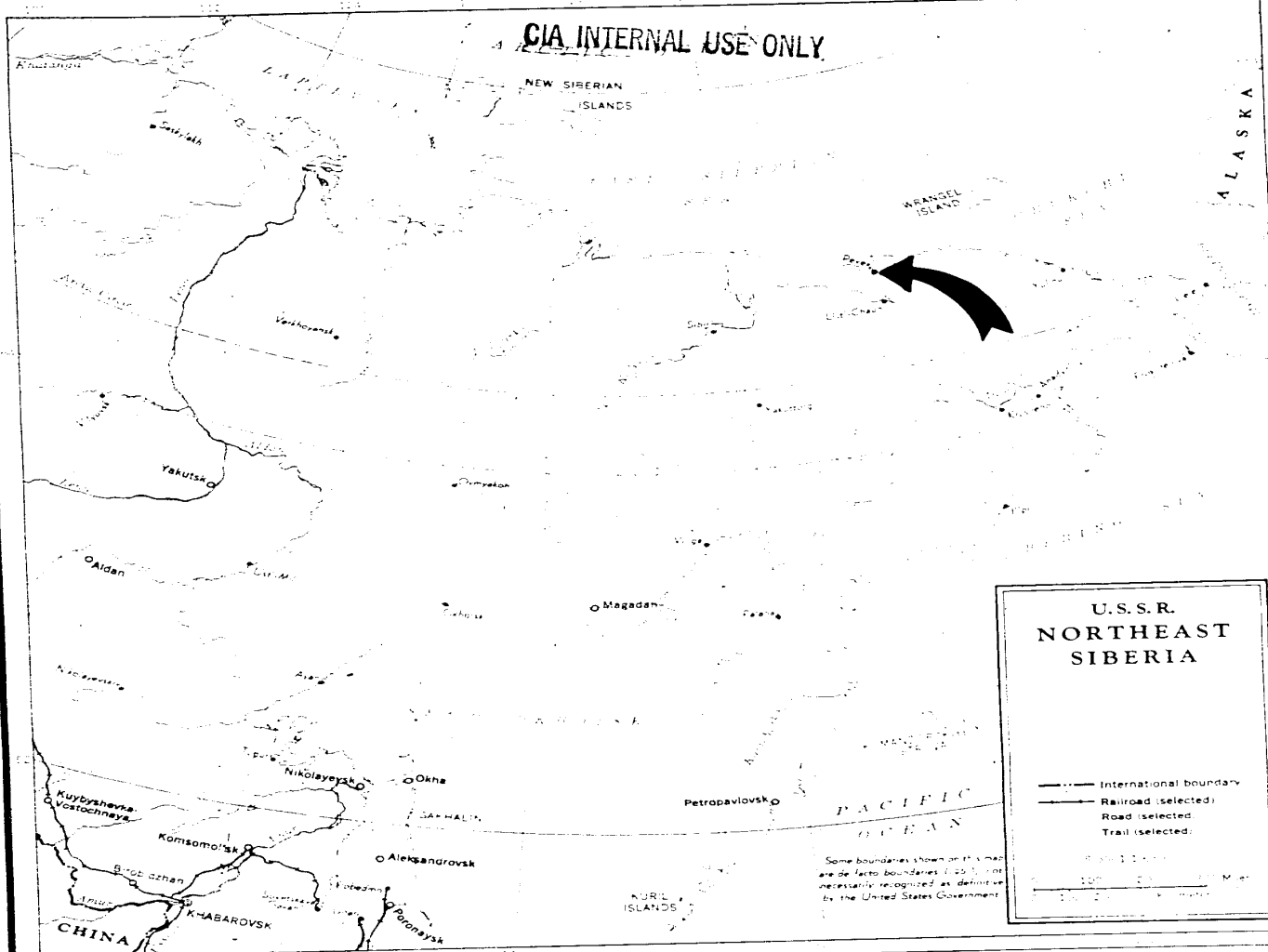
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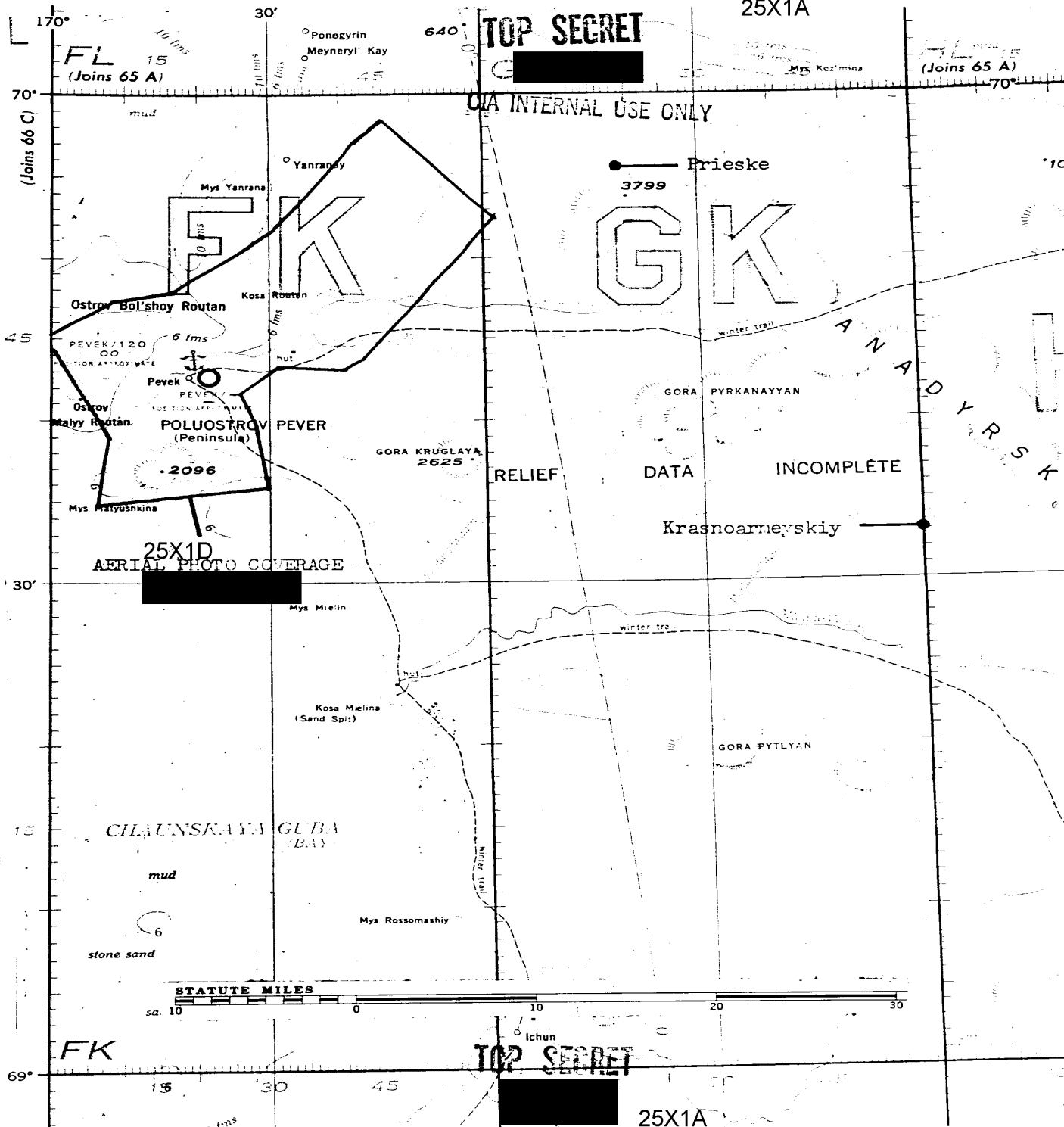
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PEVEK AREA, USSR

I. Introduction

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Pevek is a small, isolated, arctic coastal town in northeastern Siberia. Despite its extreme northern location, about 200 nautical miles north of the Arctic Circle, it appears to be a thriving little town. [REDACTED] photography shows 148 single-story, 47 two-story, and 6 three-story buildings in the town proper (plate 4) with additional buildings still under construction. The total roof area of these 201 buildings is 679,000 sq. feet. Most of the buildings are frame and appear to be of fairly recent construction.

The economy of the town is probably based upon the several mining areas in the immediate vicinity and upon its refueling facilities for ships on the northern sea route. Its only important access to the outside world is by water during a very short ice-free season and by air from Pevek airfield located nearby. No military defenses are apparent in this area, but MVD guards are probably used to man the towers guarding several labor camps and fenced areas.

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II. Location

Pevek is located approximately 800 nautical miles northeast of Magadan, USSR, and approximately 660 nautical miles northwest of Nome, Alaska. The town is situated on a small peninsula on the eastern side of Pevek Strait, which connects Chaunskaya Bay with the East Siberian Sea. The town is in the Chukotskiy National'nyy Okrug of the RSFSR.

III. Terrain

Scattered hills rise to elevations of 1800 to 2100 feet immediately inland from the narrow coastal strip on which the town is located. Further inland, to the east and northeast, the altitude approaches 4000 feet above sea level. Along the coast east of Pevek, elevations drop quickly until extensive marshlands are encountered in the vicinity of Pevek Airfield.

IV. Climate

The Pevek area has an arctic coastal type of climate. Winters are characterized by extremely low temperature, relatively light

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precipitation, a large number of clear days, very dry air, and good visibility. Summers are cool, with light precipitation, a large number of very cloudy days, and poor visibility.

Climatic records at nearby Mys Shelagskiy, about 25 nautical miles north of Pevek, indicate absolute minimum temperatures ranging from minus 44°F in February to 25°F in July and August. Absolute maximum temperatures range from 29°F in March to 73°F in August. Mean annual precipitation at Mys Shelagskiy totals less than five inches, with more than one-half of this amount falling from June through September. Snow usually covers the ground from mid-September to the early part of June.

Ice breakup begins about 1 July. Ice conditions are generally favorable enough to permit navigation by 1 August, although ice-breaker assistance may be required throughout the entire shipping season, which may extend into the middle or latter part of October during unusually warm summers. A maximum pack ice thickness of six to six and one-half feet is attained in early May.

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V. Commerce and Industry

The development of commerce and industry in the Pevek area has evolved around the mining and processing of several valuable ores and the subsequent need for transporting these ores to distant consumption points. Consequently, port facilities, local road networks, utilities, a radio communication station, an airfield, residential and administrative areas, and forced labor camps have been constructed in and around Pevek proper. Numerous prisoner-of-war reports on these activities are available for the postwar period.

A. Port Facilities

The port facilities of Pevek are located at the extreme western edge of the spit on which most of the town is situated (plate 4). Limited loading and unloading facilities for handling and storing bulk cargoes are present here. Conveyor systems permit the rapid and efficient unloading of coal from ships to the coal storage area.

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The Northern Sea Route passes just to the north in the East Siberian Sea. For nine or more months of each year, when the Northern Sea Route is ice-bound, the airplane becomes the major means of transportation to and from Pevek. Trucks and tracked vehicles apparently are used for moving local cargoes over the few roads radiating from Pevek to the surrounding mining areas. No railroad facilities are present.

B. Air Facilities

Pevek Airfield (plate 2) is located seven miles northeast of Pevek, on a small low-lying peninsula. Extensive marshlands are found immediately inland from the airfield. Snow-cleared roads, overland and across the frozen bay, provide access to the airfield from Pevek and surrounding mining areas. Two icebound cargo vessels, just offshore from the runway, indicate that the airfield is also supplied directly by ships during the short ice-free season.

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Pevek Seaplane Station (plate 4) is located at the eastern edge of Pevek, near the thermal power plant. The frozen bay immediately south of Pevek has reportedly been used as a landing area for planes transporting cargo during the winter months.

C. Mining Activity:

Only a limited amount of mining was formerly carried out in the Pevek area. Since 1944-45, however, extensive exploration for uranium and other ores has resulted in substantially increased ore production and subsequent expansion of the port and airfield facilities. Tin ore is mined in the largest quantities, although the mining of radioactive and tungsten ores is also significant. Ores and ore concentrates are shipped by boat during the ice-free season, and in barrels by airplane during the remainder of the year.

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_____ aerial photo coverage shows eight shaft mines, two strip mines, two ore dressing plants, and

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numerous test shafts and diggings in the Pevek area (plates 1, 3, and 17). Two other mining areas not covered by this photography are located at Krasnoarmeyskiy, 42 miles southeast of Pevek, and probably at Prieske, 29 miles northeast of Pevek.

D. Public Utilities:

Electric power for the Pevek area is supplied by the thermal power plant located near the eastern edge of town (plate 4).

Transformer stations are located at the Pevek Thermal Power Plant (plate 4), the Pevek Ore Dressing Plant (plate 7), and in the vicinity of the POL Storage Area (plate 5). All local areas are served by transmission lines. A heavy transmission line runs southeast from Pevek into the interior, but its destination is not covered by this photography.

Several small boilerhouses, for heating purposes, serve the administrative buildings and housing areas.

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Fresh water for the inhabitants and power plant boilers is obtained in winter by melting ice. In summer, water is obtained by pumping from a small fresh water pond immediately south of town. This pond is probably fed by diverting water from a small stream located immediately east of town through an overhead pipeline. Cooling water for the power plant is obtained from the small portion of the bay that is kept ice free by discharge of warmed condenser water.

E. Lumbering:

A sawmill and lumber processing area is located about four miles south-southwest of Pevek (plate 6). A log storage basin nearby indicates that logs are probably shipped into this area during the ice-free season. There are no local sources of lumber. The output of these mills is probably used for maintenance and construction of buildings in the Pevek area. Prefabricated buildings reportedly are being constructed in Pevek.

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F. Communications:

Pevek is probably connected to the Khabarovsk communication system by the radio station (plate 4) located on the southern edge of town. The antenna farm consists of one 6-mast rhombic antenna and one single antenna mast. The rhombic antenna is oriented in the direction of Khabarovsk.

The 2-mast radio station (plate 4) located at the extreme western edge of Pevek and just south of the Port Facilities is probably used for ship-to-shore communications.

The 2-mast radio station (plate 2) at Pevek air-field is probably used for ground-to-air communications.

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PLATE I

PLATE 1. MINING AREA

KEY TO ANNOTATIONS

1. Strip mine
2. Strip mine
3. Boiler house
4. Vehicle park
5. Fenced area. 300'x 210'.

This small active mining settlement consists of the following single-story barracks and storage buildings:

Three 145'x 40', three 90'x 50', two 120'x 40', two 105'x 50' two 80'x 50', one T-shaped 130'x 50' with 70'x 40' wing, and one each 130'x 40', 105'x 40', 80'x 80', 80'x 15' and 50'x 30'.

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PLATE 2

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PLATE 2. PEVEK AIRFIELD

KEY TO ANNOTATIONS

1. Fenced area, 470'x 260', containing a small hut.
2. Radio station. Fenced area, 440'x 290', containing:
 - Two stick masts (each 60' tall)
 - Transmitter building, 70'x 55'
 - Two other small buildings
3. Vehicle park
4. Administration building, 100'x 50'
5. Operations building and Control Tower, 65'x 40'
6. Repair shop, 100'x 50'
7. Fenced area, 350'x 260'
8. Runway; Length, 6500'
 - Width, 180'
 - Orientation, NE/SW
 - Surface, paved

Two aircraft present, one Cab and one Mop.

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PLATE 3

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PLATE 3. MATERIEL AND EXPLOSIVES STORAGE AREA

KEY TO ANNOTATIONS

1. **Vehicle Repair Area**, completely fenced, consisting of 3 repair shops, 290'x 90', 180'x 50' and 170'x 50'; an administration building, 130'x 25', a boiler house, 65'x 25' and three smaller buildings. A probable personnel housing section consisting of five buildings, four 90'x 25' and one 50'x 25', is located in a fenced area just east of the repair shops. An open storage area, also fenced, is located just west of the repair shops.
2. **Labor Camp**, enclosed in fence with guard towers. Contains 14 single-story barracks buildings, each 65'x 25'.
3. **Storage Area**, 69 acres enclosed by fence, containing numerous piles of miscellaneous mining equipment. In this area are eight storage buildings, two are 180'x 65', two are 80'x 40' and one each measures 180'x 80', 145'x 40', 65'x 25', and 50'x 25'. Also present are two probable workshops 120'x 40' and 100'x 15', and an office, 65'x 40'.
4. **Elevated water pipeline to Pevak.**
5. **Explosives Storage Area**, 195 acres, enclosed by fence with guard towers. This area contains two revetted buildings, 90'x 40' and 85'x 50'; three buildings, two 155'x 50' and one 65'x 25'; and 14 open storage piles, each 25' wide and varying in length from 100 to 200 feet.

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PLATE 4

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PLATE 4. TOWN OF PEVEK

KEY TO ANNOTATIONS

1. Elevated water pipeline.
2. Seaplane Station. This area surrounded by fence and guard towers, includes a hangar, 180'x 90'; a T-shaped shop building, 120'x 65' and 65'x 50'; an administrative building, 90'x 25'; a boiler house and nine other small buildings.
3. Thermal Power Plant. This area, surrounded by a fence and guard towers, includes the following:
Generator and Boiler House (obscured by smoke)
Coal pulveriser, covered coal conveyor, and coal pile
Transformer Station
Administration building, L-shaped, 150'x 65' and 115'x 50'
12 other small buildings
4. Radio Station. This installation consists of two buildings, 50'x 40' and 40'x 25', probably used for receiving and transmitting; a single radio mast, 115' tall, located between the two buildings; and a six mast rhombic antenna. The rhombic antenna, completely fenced, consists of six masts, each approximately 115' tall. The masts are approximately 380 feet apart and form a diamond shape oriented in the direction of Khabarovsk, the major communications center in the Soviet Far East.
5. Water pump house.
6. Water supply pond.
7. Two radio antenna masts, each 80' high. Probably a ship-to-shore communications facility.
8. Port Area.
This 70 acre area, surrounded by fence and guard towers, includes

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the following facilities:

Two loading quays, 810' and 700' long, with two portal cranes. Two other portable cranes are visible in the port area.

Four storage buildings; two 130'x 40', 100'x 25', and 80'x 40'.

Three workshops; 130'x 25', 100'x 40', and 100'x 25'.

Administration building, 145'x 25', with two wings, each 40'x 40'.

Six other small buildings.

Three large coal and/or ore storage piles are located in this port area. Overhead conveyor systems lead from the loading quays to these storage piles.

Frozen in the ice in the vicinity of the port are eight ore cargo ships, each 325' long, two probable coastal steamers, 145'-155' long, and four probable sea-going tugs.

Two open storage areas, each surrounded by separate fence and guard towers, are located within the port area.

9. Winter road across ice to Rautan Island. Lack of large scale photography precludes description of possible exploratory mining activity on this island.

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PLATE 5/51

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PLATE 5

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PLATE 5. LABOR CAMPS AND POL STORAGE

KEY TO ANNOTATIONS

1. **Labor Camp.** This area, completely fenced, including guard towers, contains 23 single-story barracks-type buildings with the following dimensions: seven 100' x 25', four 90' x 25', two 115' x 50', one each 145' x 50' and 115' x 25', one T-shaped 100' x 25' with 40' x 25' wing, one L-shaped, 115' x 25' with 40' x 35' wing, and three other small buildings. Also, in a separate interior fenced area are three buildings, 115' x 40', 80' x 25', and 50' x 40', each surrounded by a high wall.
2. **Personnel Quarters.** This area, completely fenced, including guard towers, contains better-quality personnel housing than the typical barracks-type buildings found in the labor camp (annotation No. 1). The ten buildings in this area have the following dimension: Three two-story buildings, each 65' x 40', three single-story, 50' x 25', 65' x 25' and 45' x 30', two single-story, 80' x 25' and 40' x 25'. Also, in a separate interior fenced area are two single-story buildings each 65' x 40'.
3. **POL Storage.** This area, completely fenced, including guard towers, contain 17 tanks: nine 65' in diameter, three [REDACTED] in diameter, and five 25' in diameter.
4. **POL Storage.** This area, completely fenced, including guard towers, contains two 30' diameter oil storage tanks and possible fuel drum storage.

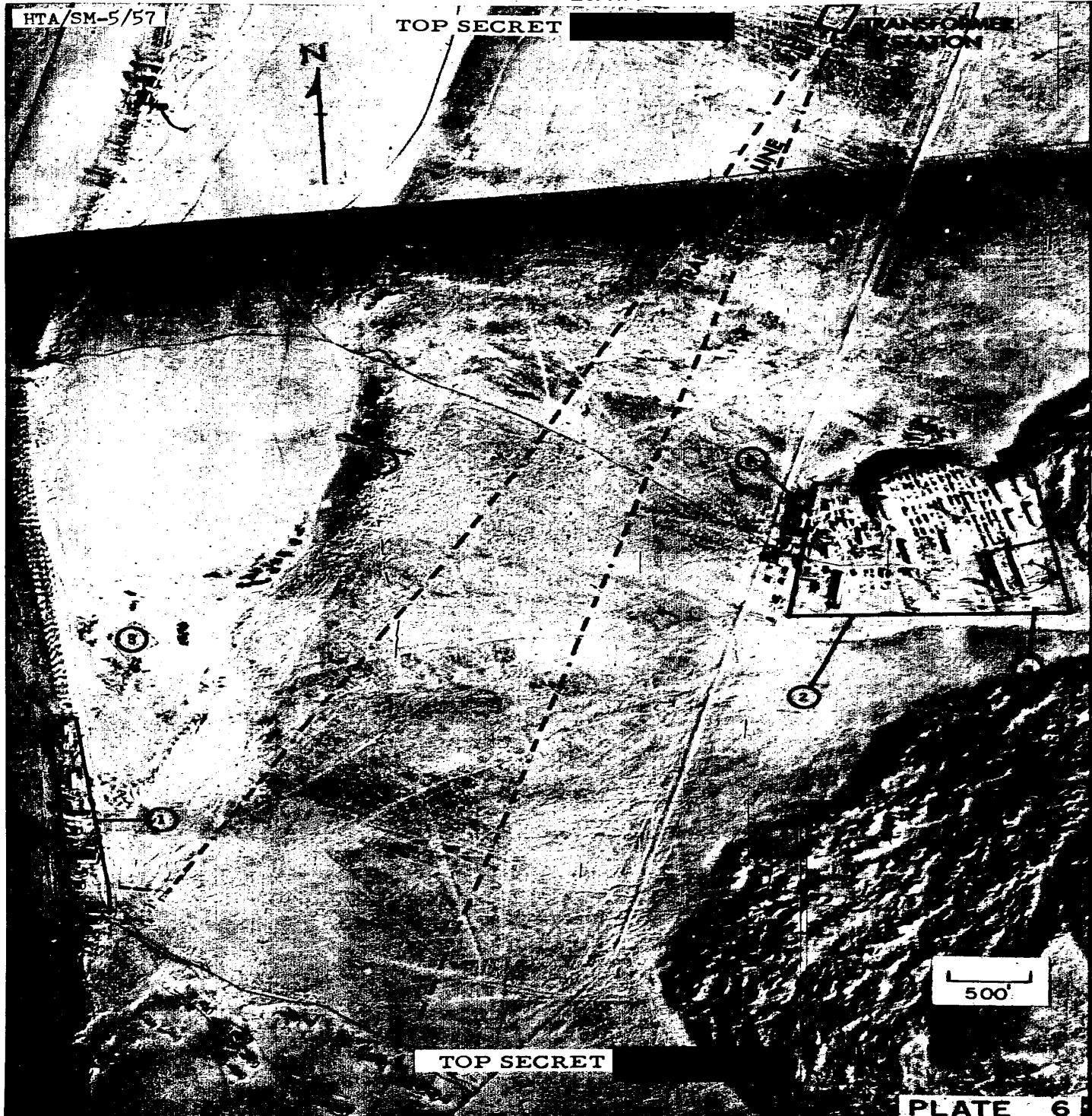
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PLATE 6. SAWMILL AND LUMBER STORAGE AREA

KEY TO ANNOTATIONS

1. Four Sawmills, 155' x 65', 145' x 80', 100' x 40', and 115' x 50'
Boilerhouse, 65' x 40'
Four other small buildings
2. Lumber Processing and Storage Area. 58 acres, fenced, with guard towers. This area contains 90-100 piles of lumber and other materials stored in the open in addition to the following 20 storage buildings: Four 195' x 65' each, two 210' x 50' each, four 80' x 25' each, one each with the following dimensions, 190' x 80', 135' x 40', 115' x 40', 155' x 50' and six other smaller buildings.
- 2a Fenced area, 650' x 530', containing two buildings, each 370' x 50'
- 2b Fenced area, 350' x 155', containing two buildings, 145' x 25' and 45' x 30'.
3. Log storage basin
4. Log conveyor

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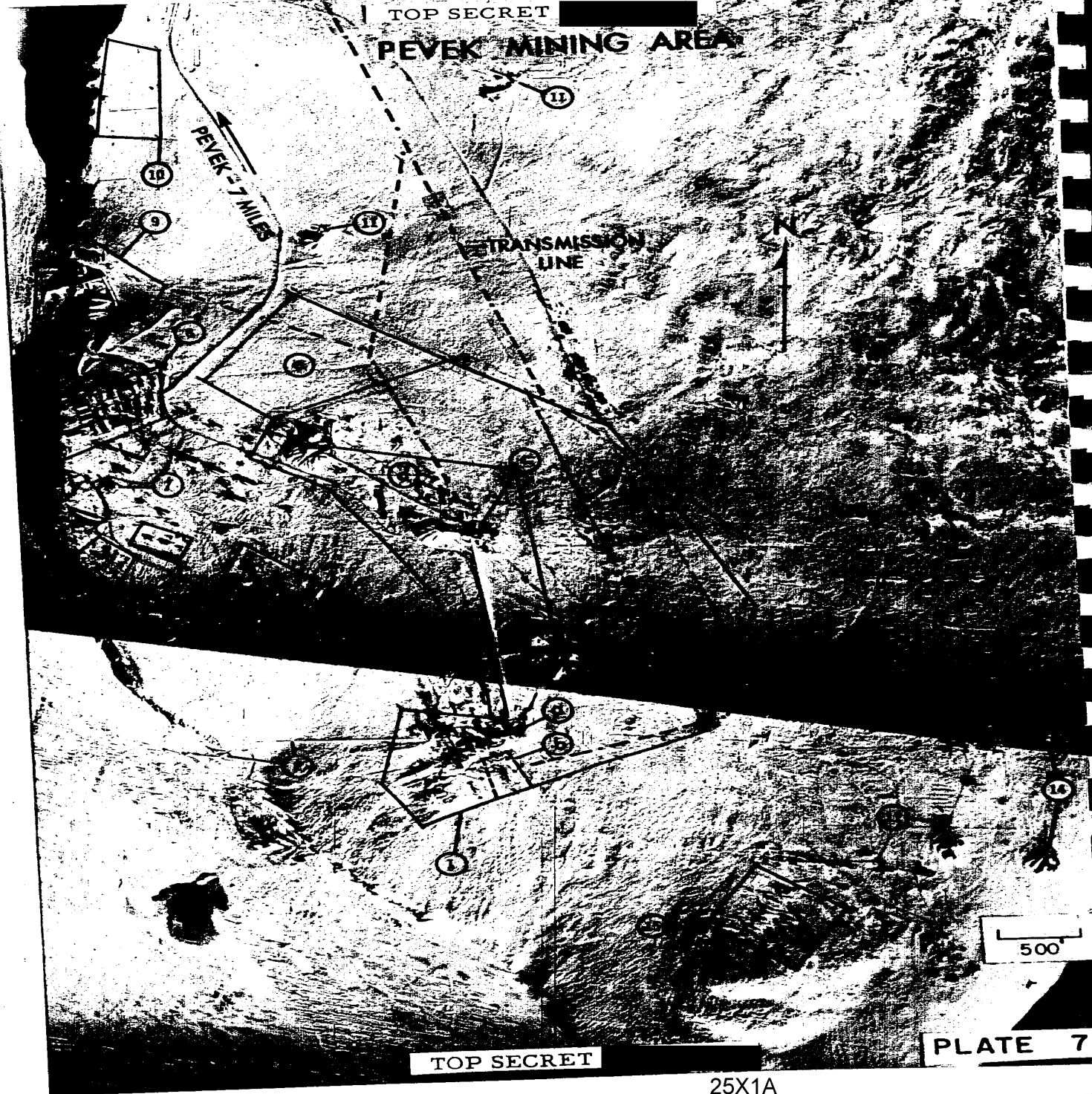
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PEVEK MINING AREA



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PLATE 7

PLATE 7. ORE DRESSING PLANTS AND MINING AREA

KEY TO ANNOTATIONS

1. Ore Dressing Plant and Mines. 235 acre area, enclosed by fence with guard towers.
 - 1a Ore dressing Plant consisting of the following: Primary crushing building, 50'x 25', secondary crushing building, 85'x 45', concentrator building, 260'x 180', boiler house, 115'x 40', storage building, 100'x 50'.
 - 1b Transformer station.
 - 1c Three shaft mines with conveyors to ore dressing plant.
 - 1d Diesel power plant, containing 3-4 generators.
 - 1e Three areas enclosed by wire fencing.
2. Water pumping station and pipeline to ore dressing plant.
3. Administrative area, completely fenced, containing five buildings measuring 170'x 50', 145'x 40', 130'x 50', 130'x 40', 90'x 15' and an 80'x 40' boiler house.
4. Area, completed fenced, containing two buildings, 90'x 25' and 65'x 25', and three smaller buildings.
5. Storage area, completely fenced, containing three buildings, 100'x 25', 65'x 40', 65'x 25' and a small shed.
6. Vehicle repair shop, 250'x 25'.
7. Lighthouse or tower. Navigation aid to shipping.
8. Labor Camp enclosed by double fence with guard towers. The camp consists of 23 single-story barracks buildings with the following dimensions: 12 are 90'x 40', 3 are 80'x 25', 2 are 115'x 40' and 1 each measures 115'x 25', 145'x 25', 100'x 25', 80'x 40', 50'x 25', and 35'x 20'. An interior wire fence divides the camp into two sections.
9. Ore Dressing Plant, enclosed by fence with guard towers, and consisting of ore crushing and dressing buildings connected in a stepped-down arrangement. Overall length, 155'x 40'. A mine and 8 other buildings, 50'x 25' or smaller, are also located within this fenced area.

10. Area, enclosed by fence with guard towers, containing two small buildings.
11. Active mines (3).
12. Five test diggings. Two appear inactive.
13. Three test drillings and derricks.
14. Two abandoned mines.
15. Labor Camp, enclosed by double fence with guard towers. This camp consists of six single-story barracks building, each 100'x 25' and three smaller buildings. One building, 100'x 65', is under construction.

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REQUIREMENT: Prepared in answer to HTA/SI/S/R10/57 requesting
a detailed description of the Pevek area, including the airfield and
mining activities.

PHOTO DATA:

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REFERENCES:

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Target Mosaic: [REDACTED]-180A (Prov), 3rd Ed., Dec 1956
Map: World Aeronautical Chart 65
USAF Pilotage Chart 65 D
Other: Various Wringer Intelligence Reports

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B.E. NUMBER:



Pevek Petroleum Storage Harbor
Pevek Port Facilities
Pevek Airfield
Pevek Seaplane Station

COORDINATES: 69° 43' N - 170° 18' W

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